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Gentlemen:

Argentine Patent Application S.N.218.417  
Your Ref. 582-454-Argentina PHILIP MORRIS INC.  
Our File 5592

This patent application has been reported on  
as follows:

"The process should be defined completely in the principal clause. The secondary clauses should be really and literally made appendant to said basic claim. No decision can be arrived at with the application in its present state."

In view of the examiner's statement regarding definition of the process, we have prepared a new set of claims (particularly new claims 1 and 10), which we suggest you authorize us to submit.

The claims we propose have substantially the same scope as the present ones. However, they contain some differences of minor importance, their purpose being to present the process in a more concise manner, at least in so far as our patent practice is concerned. This greater conciseness issues from the removal of all references to the functioning of the mechanical means and/or the purposes of certain working stages.

Said claims are of the following type:

1.- Process for producing tobacco sheet having substantially the same tobacco insolubles and solubles content as the tobacco plant parts from which it is produced, and comprising the recycling of a liquor including tobacco solubles dissolved therein and tobacco insolubles suspended therein, characterized by the fact of comprising, adding to said recycling liquor the tobacco plant parts to be treated, and then forming an aqueous paste by pulping said portions; depositing the insoluble part suspended in the paste, on a foraminous laminar

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carrier, and extracting the aqueous phase containing the tobacco solubles through said carrier and the wet tobacco sheet deposited thereon; transferring said sheet to an open mesh non-felt type fabric carrier; compressing the transferred sheet deposited on said carrier, to a degree sufficient to separate a substantial quantity of said aqueous phase retained by the wet sheet; drying the compressed sheet by evaporating the excess water retained by same; rinsing the said carriers in an aqueous medium and then clarifying the rinsing medium, thus separating the tobacco insolubles present therein; and recycling the tobacco insolubles and at least part of the aqueous phase filtered through said foraminous carrier, to the starting liquor forming stage, and the clarified rinsing medium to the aqueous rinsing medium forming stage of both carriers.

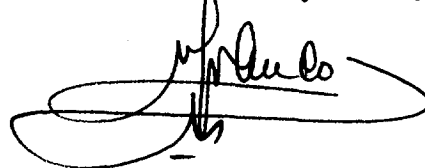
2 through 9.- Unchanged.

10.- Process in accordance with claim 1, characterized by the fact of comprising diluting the aqueous paste with a second recycling liquor containing substantially the same composition as the starting recycling liquor, at least part of said second recycling liquor consisting of part of the aqueous phase filtered through the foraminous carrier; and compressing the wet sheet on an open mesh belt, said compression being effected in a direction normal to the direction of the advance thereof; and reuniting the aqueous phase extracted during compression with the aqueous phase filtered through the foraminous carrier.

The submission of this set of claims does not exclude the possibility of defending in writing the validity of the definition of the process in question, in view of the total absence of antecedents and bringing out the correct subordination of the subclaims as expression of preferred embodiments or variants, included within the range determined in the first claim.

We now await your news, pointing out that the term granted for entering response to the outstanding official report expires on April 21, 1970.

Yours very truly,  
OBLIGADO & CIA. LTDA.



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